

# The Brethren Evangelist.

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## Come to Me.

With tearful eyes I look around,  
Life seems a dark and stormy sea  
Yet midst the gloom I hear a sound,  
A heav'nly whisper: "Come to me."  
It tells me of a place of rest.  
It tells me where my soul may flee;  
O, to the weary, faint, oppressed,  
How sweet thy bidding: "Come to me!"  
Oh, voice of mercy, voice of love,  
In conflict, grief and agony  
Support me by thine arm above  
And gently whisper: "Come to me."

## Flora, Ind., and New Troy, Mich.

On July 3, I went to Flora, Ind., in response to a card from Bro. J. A. Ridenour asking me to be there on the 4th. I found the church at Flora to consist of twenty-five members. All those with whom I became well acquainted are very zealous in good works, and especially so in the matter of giving of their limited means to the support of the Cause. In this respect, I have never found their superiors in the Brethren church.

When brother Ridenour commenced a protracted effort here last Jan., there were three members, and the outlook was anything but encouraging; the town of about 600 inhabitants, having four denominations, each with a good house of worship, and among the number a G. B. and Old Order church with a large membership in each. Yet these faithful and energetic "three" with Bro. R. commenced the battle and have not ceased work and they, with the recruits who have enlisted, do not intend to cease; for they are about to throw up a battlement in the form of a public sanctuary, in which to worship the Lord of hosts and continue the holy war.

At present they worship in the Baptist meetinghouse.

Bro. R. visits this church monthly, and preaches three sermons and sometimes more. We had fair congregations for Independence day, but Sunday night the house was full. On Sunday morning we attended the Baptist S. S. and assisted according to our ability.

Flora is situated in a very beautiful and fertile country; the town is growing and the prospects for a large and prosperous church is quite encouraging. This town is especially blest with many running wells of sulphur water which is attracting considerable attention.

In this vicinity was held the debate on immersion between Eld. James Quinter and Rev. S. P. Snyder in 1867, which is published in book form and can be obtained at our Pub. House.

On the 6th I took my leave of the kind friends and came home.

On the 7th Bro. J. M. Rittgers came to my place and conveyed me to his home seven miles north-west of here, and the next morning we drove to Bro. Rittger's. Thursday night appointment at New Troy, Mich. After resting from our twenty miles ride, in the evening we went up to the house of the Lord in New Troy where we found an anxious people assembled to hear good news concerning Zion. We had a profitable meeting.

The next day in company with

others, we set off on foot to a huckleberry marsh a distance of 2½ miles, bent on sport and probably more. After a tedious perambulation through bushes and over logs among mosquitos, we called our forces together and compared quantities; Rittger's rejoicing that the contents of his pail equalled that of mine. Now came the test; our abition and hopes were in a measure satisfied.

In the afternoon Bro. R. left us for home and I staid to conduct song services over Sunday. Being in the midst of wheat harvest we did not accomplish as much as we would otherwise have done.

The Brethren here with Bro. Jacob English in the lead, have built a meeting house in New Troy, which will, from present indications, soon have to be enlarged so as to accommodate the crowds that want to hear our doctrine. The membership now is about sixty with frequent additions. Bro. Rittger's failed to report a baptismal meeting here about a month ago, when three I think united with us.

This is one of Bro. Holsinger's evergreen churches.

On Sunday the 11th, I attended the Brethren's S. S. which is presided over by Bro. John English, who is the right man in the right place. The school is in a prosperous condition with 70 scholars, live teachers, and an organ to assist in the singing.

Bro. Jacob English has moved from his farm to New Troy and as purchased the only general store in the place and intends to spend his time in the mercantile line. May he be as successful in the future as he has been in the past, and continue to stand in the front rank of Christian workers. I shared his hospitality during my stay, and on the 4th, he conveyed me and my luggage a distance of 20 miles to Bro. David Augustine's in our home congregation. After dinner and a social chat, Bro. Augustine brought me home.

Will all the friends accept my sincere thanks for their unbounded kindness.

J. C. EWING.

South Bend, Ind., July 16, '86.

## More About the S. S. Convention.

It seems to me there should be more said about the pleasant little S. S. Convention held at Louisville, O. Now that I am through with berries and cherries, I will take a little time to tell you, (the readers of the EVANGELIST) why I am glad that I was there. If I hadn't been there I would not know how kindly those from abroad were received and cared for by our friends at Louisville. Neither would I have met and enjoyed the company of dear, sister, Kate Yost. The conversation which we enjoyed together, paid me well for having made the trip. We with many others regretted the absence of brethren Holsinger and Mallott. Bro. Brown however was there and you likely all know that he possesses the gift of knowing how to make meetings interesting and instruc-

tive. We were pleased to hear him openly declare himself as being a "Woman's Rights" man. Perhaps he and Bro. Garber could do a good work by traveling and delivering lectures, on that very interesting subject. Bro. Keiffer although apparently a little depressed gave us some good ideas: among which were that the Pastor should not undertake to do all the work. But that if he would enlist the sympathy of his people by dividing the work of the sabbath school and prayer meeting among them, success would be much more certain. To which we say, Amen.

It did us good to see and hear that earnest Bro. Jacobs again. He seldom smiles, but seems to be constantly planning about the business entrusted to him by the Master.

There we met for the first time the long-heard-from Bro. Mason, (Nosam.) Well to describe his manner of working I would ask you to imagine a well-to-do farmer entering a field of nicely cured hay with a slight indication for rain to back him up, and I think you will see pretty correctly how Bro. Mason takes hold of the work. He seemingly comprehends the meaning of "The harvest is great but the laborers are few." He and Bro. Perry did much, and well at entertaining the little folks. Bro. Mason held in his hand a mouse trap to illustrate how children like mice might be entrapped by bad habits. They seemed to understand and answered that, to keep out, was the only safe way. Bro. Perry held in each hand a knife. The one had a beautiful handle, but broken blades, the other handle was not so handsome but had perfect blades, and was therefore the most useful, and consequently the most desirable. He explained how that children like knives in order to be useful must have talents (blades) and make use of them, or else they would be like the knife with the broken blades.

Bro. Tombaugh is a very young man, but his enthusiastic speech was listened to with pleasure.

Bro. Swihart located his sabbath school with such precision that a "smile" reigned throughout the audience for a time.

Well our article will soon be too lengthy and we must finish up, but not without letting you know that Bro. Ross was there and helped to enliven the occasion with a sound little speech. He said that he had quite a distance to come, that conventions were expensive, and should be few, used to the best advantages &c., in the telling of which he made use of several adjectives, which made me think that the hot and dry state of the weather had made him drowsy, so that perhaps he imagined himself at A. M. I began to feel a little uneasy, but on looking round, noticed the brethren smiling, and I supposed he did too, at least he soon became calm, and talked just like the rest.

The song part of the exercises were most gratifying, especially

the singing of, "When the mists have cleared away."

We think there were many "God bless you's" breathed forth to us, or while the essays were being read.

We feel very grateful to all the brethren for the encouraging thoughts presented, and do not hesitate in pronouncing the meeting as a whole, a very profitable one.

LAURA SLOTT.

## Things In General—Some Things In Particular.

I have been receiving some anonymous letters. Some of them are contemptible. All I have to say is, any one who writes a letter to a man attacking his character or doctrine, and does not put his name to the letter is a sneak and a coward. David must have had reference to such ungodly creatures when he said, "For lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart." Psa. 11:2.

At our business meeting we talked about the College. Some of the notes held by our members will be paid in full. Others will pay what they can now and the rest soon as they can, and we will take up a collection in the church for the college thus gathering up the fragments that none be lost. If every church would take up a collection for the college the balance would soon be raised. A hundred congregations could within thirty days send in a nice round sum. It ought to be done.

We are making arrangements to build a new church at St. James. The building committee has been appointed and held the first meeting, the site selected and over half the money needed has been promised. This is a good point for a church and one that will tell in the future. We thank God and take courage.

The church year has been changed from October to Spring. Some thought this would be better as houses are rented in this section then, but what changes are made should be made in the Spring or in the fall. If one church employs a man in the fall and another church year commences in the spring, some church will get left, all changes should be made in the fall or all changes should be made in the spring, so there could be some system and all things done decently and in order.

I neglected to notice that I had preached in Lancaster when I visited Pa. Our friends are brave there and hopeful of the cause of Christ, but of course with preaching now and then no headway can be made. This is one point good work could be done, but it would take hard work and plenty of it. Well it takes that kind anywhere.

Brother Cost is a good Bishop; he filled our appointment on Sunday and our flour barrel on Monday. If any of you have a better bishop than that you had better hold on to him.

The tract society is moving

along slowly but sure, doing, I believe, a good work. Indeed we have evidence of the fact. We have received a number of reasons for joining the Brethren church. Some of them are just grand. Those of you who have been, or are thinking over a good reason, jot it down and send it along. In other words, why did you join church. Attend to this now, and do not forget Aug. 15th. All schools using the lesson leaf will study John 13. You may not have another opportunity like this soon to scatter literature on feet washing.

JOHN DUKE.

## Religious Intelligence.

In Indianapolis, Ind., 200 members of the Missouri (Lutheran) congregations have founded an Orphans' Home, costing \$5,500, as the result of weekly five cent offerings.

The students' society in Harvard University, known as the "Christian Brethren," have recently decided by a large majority to become a Y. M. C. Association.

That distinguished and excellent judge, Lord Mansfield, once observed: "True popularity is not the popularity which is followed after, but the popularity which follows after."

A number of Protestant ladies at Pittsburg are about to establish a home for orphan and friendless boys while learning trades or fitting for business, toward the endowment of which the late Miss Jane Holmes, of that city, left \$50,000.

The Jewish population of Jerusalem is constantly increasing, and now numbers 18,000. This is the largest number that has lived in the sacred city at one time since the destruction by Titus in 70 A. D.

Rev. Dr. Stewart, of Italy, who has been ministering for the Free Church of Scotland in that country for forty years, has nearly completed "A Commentary in Italian on the Four Gospels."

The Chinese at Los Angeles, Cal., have contributed \$1,000 to the building of a United Presbyterian Church. Rev. J. M. Herve is the pastor of the church, and Rev. J. C. Nevin conducts a mission among the Chinese in that city.

The Metropolitan African M. E. church in Washington D. C., one of the largest colored churches in the United States, was dedicated on May 30. Over 5,000 persons were present at the ceremonies, large numbers coming from Philadelphia, Baltimore and Richmond.

The "Gospel wagon," which the Central Union Mission of Washington is using, commends itself as being the outcome of practical common sense. It is an ordinary omnibus, and contains a cabinet organ, a good choir, and several speakers. Every Sunday afternoon it is driven to regions where the inhabitants do not often hear the Gospel preached, and religious services of an interesting character are held.